

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00995 221854Z

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, TBIO, PLOS, TD, VE

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR "OREGON II"

REF: STATE 92643; STATE 87562 (NOTAL)

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WHICH GRANTS APPROVAL FOR THE CRUISE OF THE "OREGON II" BUT IMPOSES OBJECTIONABLE CONDITIONS. THE NOTE WAS DATED APRIL 15 BUT NOT RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY UNTIL APRIL 20. THE EMBASSY HAS REPLIED TO THE MINISTRY BY NOTE AND HAS REQUESTED A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM AND THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS MENTIONED IN REFTELS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE TEXTS OF THE TWO NOTES FOLLOW FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION.

2. QUOTE THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 132 DATED 11TH DECEMBER, 1975 REQUESTING CLEARANCE FOR THE FISHING RESEARCH VESSEL "OREGON II" TO CONDUCT A SHRIMP TRAWL SURVEY IN THE GULF OF PARIA DURING THE PERIOD MAY 5-11, 1976.

3. QUOTE THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WISHES TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PORT O 00995 221854Z

AGREED TO THE RESEARCH VESSEL "OREGON II" CONDUCTING THE

RESEARCH SET OUT IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- (I) RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DONE ON ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO; THESE RESULTS MAY BE PUBLISHED ONLY WITH ITS EXPRESSED CONSENT;
- (II) ALL DATA AND SPECIMENS ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WHERE SPECIMENS CANNOT BE DUPLICATED THE ORIGINALS MUST RESIDE IN ITS MUSEUMS AND LABORATORIES; AND
- (III) PERSONNEL ON BOARD THE VESSEL BE RESTRICTED TO NATIONALS OF THE UNITED STATES AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DURING THE SURVEY IN THE COASTAL WATERS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

4. QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ALSO WISHES TO ACCEPT THE KIND OFFER OF SEVEN (7) BERTHS FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SCIENTISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESEARCH; THE NAMES OF THE PERSONS WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO THE EMBASSY. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.) UNQUOTE

5. QUOTE. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE MINISTRY'S NOTE NO 317 OF APRIL 15, 1976, AND TO PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY AND THE EMBASSY ON THE SUBJECT OF CLEARANCE FOR THE FISHING RESEARCH VESSEL "OREGON II" TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE GULF OF PARIA DURING THE PERIOD MAY 5-11, 1976.

6. QUOTE THE EMBASSY WISHES TO CLARIFY SEVERAL POINTS CONCERNING THE PLANNED CRUISE OF THE "OREGON II" AND THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. FIRST, THE CRUISE OF THE "OREGON II" IN THE GULF OF PARIA IS PLANNED TO TAKEPLACE IN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF BOTH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND VENEZUELA. THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA HAS CONSEQUENTLY BEEN INVITED TO SELECT AN OBSERVER FOR THIS PART OF THE CRUISE BUT HAS THUS FAR DECLINED TO DO SO. SECOND, IN SO FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS INFORMED AND AS STATED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO 132 DATED DECEMBER 11, 1975,

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PORT O 00995 221854Z

ONLY FIVE BERTHS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE "OREGON II" FOR SCIENTISTS FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR THE PORTION OF THE SHIP'S CRUISE UNDER DISCUSSION. THIRD, THE COMPLEMENT OF SCIENTISTS SCHEDULED TO BE ON BOARD THE "OREGON II" DURING ITS CRUISE IN THE GULF OF PARIA INCLUDES THREE SCIENTISTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CANADA.

7. QUOTE AS STATED IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE ON 16 OF FEBRUARY 17, 1976, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FUNDS

FOR MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE CONDITION THAT THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH BE PUBLISHED OPENLY. SINCE THE "OREGON II" IS OPERATED BY AN AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, ITS ACTIVITIES ARE ALSO GOVERNED BY THIS POLICY. FOR THIS REASON, THE CONDITION ON PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH IMPOSED IN SUB-PARAGRAPH (I) OF THE MINISTRY'S NOTE POSES A REAL OBSTACLE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY AND MAY JEOPARDIZE THE CRUISE ITSELF. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO IMPOSE WHATEVER CONDITIONS IT WISHES ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS. THE IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS SUCH AS THOSE CONTAINED IN THE MINISTRY'S NOTE, HOWEVER, MAY PREVENT SOME UNITED STATES RESEARCH VESSELS FROM VISITING TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT ONLY DEPRIVE THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY OF VALUABLE SCIENTIFIC DATA BUT WOULD ALSO REMOVE THE POSSIBILITY OF SCIENTISTS FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO USING THESE VESSELS IN UNDERTAKING THEIR OWN RESEARCH.

8. QUOTE IN SPITE OF THESE DIFFERENCES THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT A MUTUALLY- SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE CRUISE OF THE "OREGON II" CAN BE REACHED AND THAT THIS COOPERATIVE SCIENTIFIC VENTURE CAN GO FORWARD AS PLANNED. ONE SUCH SOLUTION WHICH WOULD SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES POLICY WOULD BE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO GRANT TO THE "OREGON II" PERMISSION IN ADVANCE TO PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF ITS RESEARCH IN VIEW OF THE RELATIVELY SHORT TIME AVAILABLE BEFORE THE CRUISE IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN, THE EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY AND THE EMBASSY MEET TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE AT THE MINISTRY'S EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.  
(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.) UNQUOTE.

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PAGE 04 PORT O 00995 221854Z

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